

About this Data Set

The *AIDS Public Information Data Set* is computer software designed to run on an IBM PC or compatible microcomputer, and contains information abstracted from acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) cases reported in the United States. The data set is created each year by the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, National Center for HIV, STD, and TB Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and contains information extracted from CDC's national AIDS surveillance data base.

The December 1994 data set contains two changes from previous editions. The variable *race* on the rectangular data file has been modified so that the racial/ethnic categories Asian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaska Native, and unknown are no longer collapsed into a single category. The variable *NIR*, which contained information on the status of investigations of cases that are reported without risk of exposure to HIV, has been deleted from the data set.

The *AIDS Public Information Data Set* contains data in two formats. The first format consists of a rectangular data file of approximately 50 variables extracted from CDC's national AIDS data base. One-way and two-way cross tabulations of any of these variables can be displayed on your computer screen. The second format consists of a series of state, MSA, and county/health district tables, containing information on 8 variables included in the rectangular data file plus a location variable. There is one set of tables for the entire United States, one set for each state, and one set for each MSA with 500,000 or more population. The rectangular data file, without the state or MSA tables, is also available as an ASCII data file.

To request a copy of this data set, contact the Statistics and Data Management Branch, Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, Mailstop E-48, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA, 30333, telephone (404) 639-2020. Copies are also available from the CDC National AIDS Clearinghouse, telephone (800) 458-5231. If you are calling the Clearinghouse, please ask for inventory number D206.

This manual describes the data set. It is divided into three sections and two appendices. On-line help screens provide additional information.

Section 1, *AIDS Surveillance in the United States*, describes the data collection process and the effect changes in this process may have on data analysis and interpretation. The section reviews the source of AIDS surveillance data and describes which patients are included in the CDC definition. It also discusses reporting delays and reporting completeness.

Section 2, *Data File Variables and Coding Schemes*, lists the variables included on the rectangular data file and describes each variable's coding scheme.

Section 3, State and MSA Tables, describes the variables included on the state and MSA tables.

Appendix A: Installation, describes how to load and run this program on your computer. It also suggests computer hardware and software you can use to analyze the data.

Appendix B: Metropolitan Statistical Areas lists the MSAs included in the data set.